

UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
Office of the Executive Director
Interagency Advisory Group
1900 E Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20415

Minutes of the Committee on
REMOTE WORKSITE COMMUTING ALLOWANCE
(IAG-291)
May 21, 1973

The meeting was chaired by Richard J. Carney, Leave and Special Pay Policy Section, Bureau of Policies and Standards. The purpose of the meeting was to review and discuss the approved instructions to implement the remote worksite commuting allowance program. An advance copy of the instructions has been sent to the members prior to the meeting.

Mr. Carney briefly outlined the status of the Commission's regulations covering the program. He indicated to the members that the regulations are awaiting GAO clearance. Based on informal contact with GAO, some word on clarifications of the regulations may be needed, but no substantive changes are expected at this time. An advance copy of the regulations will be distributed by an FPM Letter, limited distribution.

Mr. Carney discussed the following four basic changes in the program that have been made since the draft was sent to the members. These are:

1. SMSA boundary lines are no longer specified as a point of departure for computing mileage in determining whether the 50 mile minimum distance is met. Instead, point of departure is from the center of the closest established community.
2. If agency transportation is not provided, all employees will receive the same transportation expense allowance irrespective of whether or how frequently they drive, or ride in a carpool.
3. In the interest of minimizing administrative complexity, two methods of paying allowance have been provided for agency choice. One method provides payment on a daily basis excluding non-commuting days. The other method involves averaging payments by taking into consideration a typical number of non-commuting days.
4. The regulations are effective as of the date the law was approved, January 8, 1971. For an authorization to be retroactively effective it must be submitted to the Commission within 6 months of the date of the FPM Letter. There can be retroactivity if the installation was operational between January 8, 1971 and the date of approval and basic remoteness criteria would have been met. Eligibility determinations on individual employees would have to be made separately.

(IAG-291) continued

2.

There was general discussion by the group on a number of the specific implications of the new instructions (i.e., approximately five thousand to seven thousand Federal employees are expected to be affected.) An orientation session on the program will be held for agency field representatives in Denver, Colorado on May 24, 1973.

Since IAG-291 was established solely to participate in the development of the implementing regulations and instructions, this was the final meeting of the committee and it is hereby abolished.

Attendance

Carney, Richard J. (CSC) (Chairman)
Biggs, Nettie (Army)
Edge, Virginia (Air Force)
Friend, Robert (Interior)
Hall, Don (Army)
Longen, Edward (Transportation)
Officer, Jo (Transportation)
Parrott, Marjorie (Transportation)